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the region and season in which these notes were taken. We would be glad to have seen lists comparing summer and permanent residents and likewise areal lists, because the life zone of the coast is evidently not the same as that inland. This number starts a series of special papers, which we foresee will play no small part in western ornithology. We are bound to say the first number fulfils the requirements of a first-class publication and does credit to the club which is responsible for launching it into a world already flooded with so many good efforts. W. K. F.



NORTH AMERICAN FAUNA No. 19 contains the "Results of a Biological Reconnaissance of the Yukon River Region," Alaska. The "Annotated List of Birds" is by Dr. L. B. Bishop, who accompanied the expedition as a volunteer assistant. The List proper consists of 171 species and subspecies, all of which are stated to have been seen or obtained by the party. There are more or less extended field notes, and in some cases technical remarks. Preceding the list is a four-page "Introduction" and a "Classified List of Species." The map accompanying this number of the *North American Fauna* serves to show the route traversed by the expedition. But we are sorry to find that only a very few of the localities mentioned in the text are indicated on the map, a fault which is quite obvious to one not having at hand any recent charts of Alaska.

Over 2000 miles of Alaskan territory were covered by the expedition, including nearly the whole length of the Yukon River. This being all accomplished within four months' time, a thorough exploration of any single locality passed through could not be expected; and at the most, the time for observation and collecting at any one point was altogether too short. The results of this trip are, therefore, quite remarkable. Eighteen species are recorded for the first time from the Upper Yukon. They are as follows: *Tringa bairdii*, *Symphemia semipalmata inornata*, *Buteo borealis calurus*, *Falco sparverius*, *Contopus borealis*, *Contopus richardsoni saturatus*, *Empidonax traillii alnorum*, *Empidonax hammondi*, *Spinus pinus*, *Spizella socialis arizonæ*, *Passerella iliaca*, *Helminthophila peregrina*, *Dendroica townsendi*, *Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*, *Sitta canadensis*, *Hylocichla aonalaschkæ*, *H. aonalaschkæ pallasi*, *Saxicola ænanthe*.

Nine species are newly recorded from southeastern Alaska, mostly taken in the vicinity of Skaguay and Glacier. These are: *Æchmophorus occidentalis*, *Xema sabinii*, *Lagopus leucurus*, *Picoides americanus alascensis*, *Contopus richardsoni saturatus*, *Empidonax hammondi*, *Junco hyemalis connectens*, *Sitta canadensis*, *Merula migratoria*.

*Haliaeetus albicilla*, the Gray Sea Eagle, is

for the first time recorded from western North America, on the strength of a young specimen found dead at Unalaska. *Larus philadelphia*, *Tringa maculata*, *Tringa acuminata* and *Loxia curvirostra minor* are also recorded as new to Unalaska. *Larus philadelphia* and *Tringa acuminata* are added to the avifauna of the Pribilof Islands.

A number of recently described races of western birds are recognized in the list, among which we note *Canachites canadensis osgoodi* BISHOP, which has seemed to us to be identical with *C. canadensis labradorius* BANGS, no matter what ought to be the case from a zoographical point of view. We hope the A. O. U. Committee will be enabled to see a good series of Alaskan *Canachites* before passing on the alleged race.

The biographical notes on some of the species, although brief, are of especial interest. For instance, under the Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) which was found to be more or less common along the Upper Yukon, may be quoted: "They were nesting about the cliff as a rule, but several times we saw them enter holes in banks similar to those of *Clivicola riparia*, while at Fort Selkirk they were nesting in the interstices between the logs of the cabins." Townsend's Solitaire was also found on the Upper Yukon, and its remarkably beautiful song is described at length.

Thus are the birds of even the most remote corners of North America rapidly becoming known. Alaska seems to be a region of especial interest just now. But there certainly still remains many surprises for the observer who is willing to make systematic notes and collections for an extended period in any one of the many out-of-the-way districts, especially of the southern coast of Alaska. J. G.



YEAR BOOK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1899. (Washington, 1900). The present year book is an unusually interesting volume, embracing as it does the report of each bureau of "the progress made in the application to agriculture of the particular science with which it is concerned." Ornithology and its progress during the century is ably handled by Dr. T. S. Palmer in a noteworthy contribution entitled "A Review of Economic Ornithology in the United States." The results of fourteen years' work of the Biological Survey are shown, and the commercial uses of birds taken up with reference to their value as game and as egg, guano and feather producers, while on the other hand, their value as insect and weed destroyers is forcibly pointed out. A resume of the various laws enacted for bird protection is given and the paper is illustrated with two full-page plates, one showing the wholesale collecting of albatross eggs and the other a vast